

In keeping with the terms of reference for the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees 2017/2018 this submission aims to consolidate the south west inner city area into a single LEA in keeping with term 4 of the committee's terms of reference: "as far as possible, around urban centres, taking due account of local and community identities and linkages as well as natural boundaries and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members".

In recent times Dublin 8 and its constituent urban villages; The Liberties, Portobello, The Tenters, Dolphins Barn, Leonard's Corner and Kilmainham, amongst others, has developed its own niche as the city's historic cultural core with a vibrant urban environment. I therefore propose that the entire Dublin 8 area be unified in a single LEA. Dublin 8 has previously been divided into three LEAs, Pembroke South-Dock, Crumlin-Kimmage and Ballyfermot-Drimnagh which has damaged it's cohesiveness and limited the area reaching its full potential. These boundaries have split numerous urban villages in half such as Leonard's Corner and Kilmainham. This proposal also respects the natural boundary of the Grand Canal which was overlooked in previous LEAs.

The proposal below includes the following electoral divisions:

Wood Quay A, B

Merchants Quay A, B, C, D, E, F

Ushers Quay A, B, C, D, E, F

Kilmainham B,C

The total population of this area is 47,184 which would be sufficient for a 5 seat LEA in keeping with term of reference 3.

This proposal respects the integrity of the many urban villages in the area and would produce a compact and cohesive geographic area with a natural boundary at the Grand Canal and Heytesbury Street. This area should be manageable for public representatives.

The vast majority of the area recommended is within the Dublin South Central Dail constituency with Wood Quay A and B being within the Dublin Bay South constituency. However, I believe that by incorporating two districts from Dublin Bay South to the east of the existing Crumlin-Kimmage boundary the proposal would incorporate almost all of the residential areas west of the city centre core. This unified South West City area under one Local Electoral Area would simplify administration and allow for more coherent representation for the entire south west inner city and Dublin 8 area in the city council.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider this proposal.

Best regards,

Eoghan Howe

